

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Weekly Bulletin



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GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

Concealed Assets in Future Citizens

The above caption is the title of an address delivered by Colonel George Filmer, President of the California Society for Crippled Children, before the Los Angeles Rotary Club on January 12, 1934. In this address, Colonel Filmer outlined plans for the education of the handicapped child and for the removal of his physical defects. In the course of his remarks, he said:

"There are several thousand crippled children in this State, most of them the victims of infantile paralysis. For them preventive measures come too late. For some of them there is the possibility of remedial treatment, however, and for all of them special educational facilities adapted to fit their physical condition. It is good to know that California has made provision for the treatment of crippled children, so that no child need be deprived of the opportunity for physical restoration in so far as this may be achieved by modern treatment and surgery. Legislation to this effect was enacted in 1927; the administration of the act is the responsibility of the State Department of Health. Already a large number of children have profited by this humanitarian provision—children whose parents would not have been able to provide the costs of treatment. Hundreds of unfortunate youngsters have thus regained at least a fair degree of strength and ability to move their limbs who might otherwise have been doomed to go through life hopeless and dependant cripples.

It is good, too, to know that California has accepted the principle that handicapped children shall have equal opportunity for education. If the child can not

go to school on account of physical impairment, the school can be brought to the child. In a number of children's hospitals in the State special classes have been established so that during the long period of convalescence no precious school time need be lost. After returning home from the hospital, if the child is still unable to walk to school, transportation to the school is provided; in the larger cities there are special classes adapted to fit the individual needs of each handicapped child. If attendance is still impossible even under these conditions, a teacher may be sent to the child's home to give instruction there. Any additional expense for this special educational service is paid by the State, so that the local school districts are not required to spend more for their handicapped pupils than for normal pupils. These are some of the provisions of the California School Code.

Nor is this all; after the child has finished his regular school education and has reached the age when he should begin to earn his own living, he may apply to the State Service of Vocational Rehabilitation for advice as to what kinds of work he may be able to perform in spite of his handicap, and also for training to prepare him for the occupation selected. He is then assisted in finding a job in the line of work for which he has been fitted, and so takes his place in the world of industry and in the life of the community the same as any other citizen, earning his own way and making his contribution to the common good.

The story of one handicapped girl will illustrate clearly how the various steps of cure, care, education and vocational training make up a complete and unified program for the benefit of the unfortunate

victims of congenital defect or disabling disease. Mary Ellen was stricken by infantile paralysis when she was four years old. In spite of the best treatment then available, she was left with a permanent paralysis; unable to walk although she recovered her health otherwise. When she was seven, she was taken to an orthopedic hospital where the blessing of modern surgery made it possible for her to walk once more, although still with some difficulty and with the aid of braces on each leg. Nor was this accomplished in a day; months in bed, followed by many months in a wheel chair, passed before she could take even the first happy step, and even after that a long period of continued hospitalization was necessary before she was allowed to return to her home. Her time was well employed, however, not only in the process of recovery but also because there in the hospital she had her first school lessons. A teacher came to her bedside and she learned to read and write while lying there. Then came a happy day when she was taken with other children to the school room, right in the hospital, and joined the classes which were to enable her to take her place later in the regular school classes with children of her own age. Eventually she completed her high school work, happy in the knowledge that she was the equal of any of her classmates in scholarship even if she could not dance and play basketball or tennis as they did. Now she wanted to do something to relieve her parents of the burden of her care and even to aid them. She applied for the service of vocational rehabilitation and received the best of training for secretarial work, and today she is successfully employed in an office at a fair salary, helping her parents just as she had hoped to do.

Certainly society is well repaid for the service it rendered in providing for the care, cure, education and training of this young woman. How much better it is to see her self-supporting and contented rather than dependent and unhappy as she might otherwise be. But far greater than the achievement of helping our crippled children to grow into competent adults will be the achievement of eliminating one great source of crippling with all the suffering and misery which it entails."

DOCTOR BLEVINS HEALTH OFFICER OF YOLO

Dr. W. J. Blevins of Woodland has been appointed health officer of Yolo County, succeeding Dr. Fred R. Fairchild who has held the position for many years. Dr. Blevins will also have charge of the county hospital and plans are being made for extensive improvements in the hospital buildings. Heretofore, the services of members of the staff of the Woodland clinic have been available in the work of the county health department. Under the new health officer, it is anticipated that there will be a rearrangement by means of which public health activities of the county will be carried on by employees of the health department, who will act under the supervision of Dr. Blevins.

A. P. H. A. MEETING AT PASADENA

Dr. J. L. Pomeroy, President of the Western Branch of the American Public Health Association and Health Officer of Los Angeles County, has invited the cooperation of California health officers in making successful the sixty-third annual meeting of the American Public Health Association, which will be held at Pasadena September 3-6, 1934. All public health workers in California who are not members of the association should gain admittance at once in order that they may participate in this important meeting, joining with other public health workers throughout the country in the promotion of plans for professional advancement. Dr. William P. Shepard of San Francisco is secretary of the Western Branch of the American Public Health Association and he is available for consultation with health officers in the northern end of the State who desire explicit information relative to the Pasadena meeting.

California has a well earned reputation for hospitality and for high standards in public health administration. The maintenance of this record is a matter of importance to all who are engaged in public health work. Efforts that are spent in making this a successful national convention will go far toward maintaining an enviable established record.

AN UNUSUAL OUTBREAK OF BOTULISM

Five members of a Japanese family in Santa Clara County died recently of botulism which was contracted through an unusual source. All members of the family partook of a meal on December 28 at which a soy bean preparation was consumed. This preparation had been made December 26 and cooked four hours on the stove, after which it was buried in a cloth sack and placed in a heated pit in the ground for two days to allow fermentation. Laboratory examination of the mixture proved positive for botulism. The five fatal cases in the one family indicated the potency of the toxin.

NEW HEALTH OFFICER FOR CLOVERDALE

Dr. D. C. Oakleaf of Cloverdale has been appointed city health officer, to succeed Dr. Ira A. Wheeler.

"It seems futile to attempt to reform education apart from the physical condition of the child; it seems unreasonable to expect healthy adolescence if we continue to neglect the remedy of the physical disabilities of childhood and the prevention of their cause."—Sir George Newman.

EMERGENCY FEEDING OF CHILDREN

Under the direction of the San Mateo County Emergency Relief Administration, of which Sam D. Merk is director, a program of child feeding in the county schools has been carried on since November 15, 1933. This program has been applied to children in whom examination indicated underfeeding and malnutrition among families on local relief lists. After an investigation by the county nursing staff, if the children of such families were found to be underfed, arrangements are made to give them a hot nourishing lunch in the schools which they attend. The food is served in each school by local workers in cooperation with the Parent-Teachers Association, the school domestic science department, and other units. Whenever necessary, a helper is taken from the county unemployment list and given employment in the work by the Emergency Relief Administration. Each child is given a ticket and upon presentation is given the same quality and quantity of food which more fortunate children receive. Efforts are made also to provide sufficient food, especially milk, for the use of preschool children in the homes of families on local relief. A daily check is made of such families as they are added to the relief roll and it is believed that the field has been covered fully. In fourteen schools serving pupils of the Emergency Relief Administration during the last six weeks of 1933, 2156 meals were served to 193 pupils in the schools. In addition to this, large numbers of children have been served by the local Parent-Teachers Association.

PSITTACOSIS REGULATIONS TIGHTENED

At a meeting of the State Board of Public Health held February 10, 1934, it was determined that only those shell parrakeets can be sold, offered for sale, trade or barter within the State of California that have been bred in aviaries found by laboratory tests to be free from psittacosis infection. In other words, shell parrakeets sold within the State of California must meet the same requirements as those accepted for shipment to other States.

The department has been advised by the State Department of Health of Maine that on and after March 1, 1934, no shell parrakeets can be sold or transported in that State. Connecticut, Minnesota, Oregon and Hawaii have similar regulations.

They who have a good constitution of body can bear heat and cold, and so they who have a right constitution of soul can meet anger, grief, immoderate joy, and other passions.—Epictetus.

THE BRIDGE OF LIFE

In Addison's "Vision of Mirza," human life is compared to a bridge. It reads in part as follows:

"The bridge thou seest, said he, is HUMAN LIFE; consider it attentively. Upon a more leisurely survey of it, I found that it consisted of three-score and ten entire arches, with several broken arches, which, added to those that were entire made up the number to about an hundred. As I was counting the arches, the Genuis told me that this bridge consisted at first of a thousand arches; but that a great flood swept away the rest, and left the bridge in the ruinous condition I now beheld it. But tell me further, said he, what thou discoverest on it. I see multitudes of people passing over it, said I, and a black cloud hanging on each end of it. As I looked more attentively, I saw several of the passengers dropping through the bridge into the great tide that flowed beneath it; and upon further examination perceived that there were innumerable trapdoors that lay concealed in the bridge which the passengers no sooner trod upon, but they fell through them into the tide, and immediately disappeared. These hidden pitfalls were set very thick at the entrance of the bridge, so that throngs of people no sooner break through the cloud but many of them fell into them. They grew thinner towards the middle, but multiplied and laid closer together towards the end of the arches that were entire. There were, indeed, persons, but their number was very small, that continued a kind of hobbling march of the broken arches, but fell through one after another, being quite tired and spent with so long a walk."

An Arab proverb runs as follows:

"The world is supported by four columns;
The justice of the great
The prayer of the righteous
The bravery of the valiant, and
The science of the physician."

Let the old, gripped by baseless and adamantine food prejudices, continue in their dietary abominations. Many of their organs are already marked for the grave and, at most, their efforts to think result only in a rearrangement of their prejudices. But do spare our children from such prejudices, to the end that they may grow up sounder of wind and limb and, therefore, more able to carry on the burdens that we will surely hand to them. And who knows but what dietary intelligence among the children may in some small way seep through to their parents.—George H. Bigelow, M.D.

MORBIDITY*

Chickenpox

649 cases of chickenpox have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 1, Alameda 2, Berkeley 15, Emeryville 2, Livermore 1, Oakland 45, San Leandro 1, Colusa 1, Contra Costa County 1, Antioch 2, El Cerrito 2, Fresno County 3, Fresno 6, Callexico 1, Kings County 3, Los Angeles County 47, Alhambra 12, Culver City 2, Glendale 3, Glendora 2, Huntington Park 9, Inglewood 1, Long Beach 17, Los Angeles 80, Monrovia 15, Pasadena 15, Pomona 3, San Marino 3, Santa Monica 17, South Pasadena 16, South Gate 11, Bell 1, Gardena 1, Madera County 15, San Rafael 5, Mendocino County 2, Fort Bragg 6, Merced County 3, Monterey County 3, Monterey 4, Pacific Grove 3, Soledad 1, Orange County 8, Santa Ana 9, Seal Beach 2, Laguna Beach 1, Tustin 3, Plumas County 2, Riverside County 3, Corona 2, Riverside 9, Sacramento County 12, Sacramento 15, San Bernardino 1, San Diego County 12, Escondido 2, La Mesa 3, National City 10, San Diego 5, San Francisco 72, San Joaquin County 14, Lodi 1, Manteca 3, Stockton 18, San Luis Obispo County 2, San Luis Obispo 2, Santa Barbara County 2, Santa Clara County 1, Palo Alto 1, San Jose 12, Willow Glen 1, Santa Cruz County 1, Santa Cruz 5, Watsonville 2, Stanislaus County 3, Modesto 3, Sutter County 1, Yuba City 1, Red Bluff 1, Ventura County 20, Yuba County 1.

Diphtheria

41 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Corcoran 1, Hanford 1, Los Angeles County 3, Alhambra 1, Beverly Hills 1, Glendale 1, Huntington Park 1, Los Angeles 22, Montebello 2, San Rafael 1, San Bernardino County 1, San Diego County 1, San Diego 1, Redwood City 1, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Clara County 1, Dixon 1.

German Measles

99 cases of German measles have been reported, as follows: Alameda 1, Berkeley 1, Oakland 1, Callexico 1, Kern County 1, Bakersfield 1, Lassen County 2, Los Angeles County 25, Alhambra 1, Beverly Hills 1, Glendora 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 46, Orange County 1, Santa Ana 1, Plumas County 1, San Francisco 2, Tracy 9, Visalia 2.

Influenza

38 cases of influenza have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles County 2, Burbank 1, Claremont 1, Long Beach 2, Los Angeles 22, South Gate 1, Brea 1, Santa Ana 1, La Habra 1, Sacramento 3, Burlingame 1, Stanislaus County 1, Tehama County 1.

Malaria

2 cases of malaria have been reported, as follows: Butte County 1, Yuba County 1.

Measles

1481 cases of measles have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 31, Alameda 94, Berkeley 17, Hayward 2, Oakland 268, Piedmont 4, San Leandro 1, Colusa County 1, Antioch 1, El Cerrito 1, Richmond 1, Fresno County 2, Imperial County 6, Callexico 3, El Centro 5, Westmoreland 1, Kern County 1, Los Angeles County 10, Alhambra 2, Azusa 1, Claremont 2, Compton 1, Long Beach 5, Los Angeles 39, Pasadena 3, Pomona 5, San Fernando 1, Whittier 3, Lynwood 1, Marin County 1, Corte Madera 1, Calistoga 3, Huntington Beach 1, Santa Ana 1, Plumas County 4, Riverside County 17, Elsinore 1, Sacramento 1, Ontario 1, San Diego County 38, Chula Vista 5, Coronado 6, Escondido 6, La Mesa 55, National City 10, San Diego 368, San Francisco 32, San Joaquin County 1, Daly City 6, San Mateo 1, Santa Barbara County 72, Santa Barbara 241, Sunnyvale 1, Santa Cruz County 1, Stanislaus County 1, Sutter County 1, Ventura County 86, Santa Paula 7.

Mumps

494 cases of mumps have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 6, Alameda 11, Berkeley 7, Oakland 48, Colusa County 1, Contra Costa County 3, Antioch 3, Imperial County 2, Inyo County 4, Kern County 11, Bakersfield 2, Kings County 4, Los Angeles County 9, Avalon 10, Beverly Hills 1, Culver City 1, Long Beach 2, Los Angeles 18, Pasadena 3, Pomona 5, South Pasadena 2, Whittier 10, West Covina 1, South Gate 2, Monterey County 2, Monterey 2, Salinas 9, Orange County 24, Huntington Beach 3, Orange 3, Santa Ana 5, Seal Beach 1, Sacramento 2, San Bernardino County 1, Colton 1, San Diego County 1, Chula Vista 1, San Francisco 216, San Joaquin County 6, Stockton 3, San Luis Obispo County 3, Daly City 2, Santa Barbara County 10, Santa Clara County 4, Los Gatos 2, Mountain View 7, San Jose 2, Watsonville 1, Modesto 3, Yolo County 2, Winters 11, Woodland 1.

Pneumonia (Lobar)

61 cases of lobar pneumonia have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 1, Berkeley 1, Oakland 4, Kern County 1, Los Angeles County 4, Azusa 1, Los Angeles 25, Lynwood 1, South Gate 1, San Rafael 2, Orange County 1, Huntington Beach 1, Roseville 1, Riverside County 2, San Diego County 1, Chula Vista 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 8, San Jose 1, Tulare County 2, Santa Paula 1.

Scarlet Fever

296 cases of scarlet fever have been reported, as follows: Alameda 1, Berkeley 1, Oakland 1, Butte County 4, Contra Costa County 1, Fresno County 13, Fresno 1, Imperial County 3, Callexico 1, El Centro 1, Inyo County 3, Kern County 2, Kings County 9, Los Angeles County 35, Arcadia 2, Glen-

dale 1, Hermosa 1, Huntington Park 3, Inglewood 3, Long Beach 3, Los Angeles 64, Pasadena 2, Pomona 11, Redondo 1, San Gabriel 4, San Marino 1, Santa Monica 2, South Pasadena 2, Hawthorne 1, South Gate 3, Maywood 2, Gardena 1, Merced County 1, Salinas 1, Grass Valley 1, Orange County 12, Anaheim 1, Fullerton 1, Huntington Beach 1, Orange 2, Santa Ana 1, Laguna Beach 3, Riverside County 1, Riverside 1, Sacramento County 4, Sacramento 1, San Bernardino County 8, Redlands 11, San Diego County 1, National City 1, San Diego 18, San Francisco 16, San Joaquin County 4, Lodi 2, Stockton 3, San Luis Obispo County 3, Daly City 2, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Maria 2, Santa Clara County 1, San Jose 3, Vallejo 1, Tuolumne County 1, Sonoma 2, Yolo County 2.

Smallpox

5 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Glendale 2, Long Beach 2, Lynwood 1.

Typhoid Fever

4 cases of typhoid fever have been reported, as follows: Contra Costa County 1, Los Angeles 1, Grass Valley 1, San Joaquin County 1.

Whooping Cough

375 cases of whooping cough have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 3, Alameda 6, Berkeley 8, Hayward 2, Oakland 48, Colusa County 1, Contra Costa County 2, Martinez 3, Placerville 3, Fresno 1, Kings County 10, Los Angeles County 32, Alhambra 3, Arcadia 1, Avalon 2, Beverly Hills 1, Burbank 2, Claremont 2, Glendale 1, Inglewood 2, La Verne 1, Long Beach 2, Los Angeles 68, Montebello 3, Pasadena 4, Pomona 5, San Fernando 8, Santa Monica 1, South Pasadena 2, Lynwood 7, South Gate 1, Monterey Park 1, Madera County 17, San Anselmo 1, San Rafael 5, Mendocino County 2, Merced County 4, Orange County 1, Newport Beach 1, Santa Ana 2, Riverside 15, Sacramento 1, Coronado 6, San Diego 3, San Francisco 24, San Joaquin County 12, Stockton 8, Burlingame 4, Santa Barbara 6, Santa Clara County 2, San Jose 14, Santa Cruz 1, Sutter County 1, Yuba City 1, Ventura County 7, Marysville 1.

Meningitis (Epidemic)

2 cases of epidemic meningitis have been reported, as follows: Oakland 1, San Joaquin County 1.

Dysentery (Amoebic)

5 cases of amoebic dysentery have been reported, as follows: Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 3, San Bernardino County 1.

Dysentery (Bacillary)

3 cases of bacillary dysentery have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 2, San Diego 1.

Pellagra

4 cases of pellagra have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 1, Sacramento 1, San Bernardino County 2.

Poliomyelitis

5 cases of poliomyelitis have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 1, Mill Valley 1, Riverside County 1, San Francisco 1.

Rabies in Animals

23 cases of rabies in animals have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles County 10, Alhambra 1, Inglewood 1, Los Angeles 5, San Gabriel 1, South Gate 1, Coronado 2, San Diego 1, San Joaquin County 1.

Trichinosis

9 cases of trichinosis have been reported, as follows: Lake County 5, San Francisco 1, California 3.**

Jaundice (Epidemic)

One case of epidemic jaundice from Maywood has been reported.

Undulant Fever

2 cases of undulant fever have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 1, Redlands 1.

Coccidioidal Granuloma

2 cases of coccidioidal granuloma from Stockton have been reported.

Yaws

One case of yaws from San Francisco has been reported.

Septic Sore Throat (Epidemic)

13 cases of epidemic septic sore throat have been reported, as follows: Eureka 1, Lake County 2, Los Angeles County 3, San Bruno 1, South San Francisco 3, Sonoma County 3.

** Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the State or those who contracted their illness traveling about the State throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

* Complete reports for above diseases for week ending February 24, 1934.